



Mr. Jennings Dink Fowlkes

March 30, 1940 - March 20, 2026

Jennings Bryan “Dink” Fowlkes, Jr., age 85, of Rossville, Georgia went into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday, March 20, 2026. He was born on March 30, 1940, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Francis Fowlkes Rethorn. She married Rex Rethorn and raised Dink with his sister Shirley Gill and Sue Neuman. Despite his northern roots, he spent 69 years in the North Georgia area and found a deep love for the Southern way of life.

Dink was well known for his elaborate storytelling about growing up in St. Louis, meeting Shorty at the well, raising his kids, showing his horses, his Army days, and his Coca-Cola route, to name a few.

He is preceded in death by his father, mother, sister Shirley, and his first wife, Leona “Shorty” Fowlkes, with whom he was blessed to enjoy 48 years of marriage. With Shorty, he raised three beautiful, busy children: Sheila (Randy) Pennington, Angie (Joe) Pickett, and Gene (Roxanne) Fowlkes. Their life was spent showing horses, playing sports, and spending lots of time together as a family.

Dink was promoted to "Papaw" starting in 1989 to Rutger Lamberson, Caitlin (Bryan) Tucker, Hailey (Tyler) Bass, Sidney Fowlkes, and Joby (Makayla) Pickett. He was the best pumpkin carver, Santa Claus, lawn mower, and horse-riding partner. He never missed a chance to write a silly poem in a

birthday card.

The Lord blessed Dink with a second marriage in 2009 to Linda Sharp Fowlkes, who was a light in darkness and gave him a fun, adventurous, and loving 16 years. They traveled, laughed, ate, dreamed, drank coffee, and raised a sweet dachshund named "Miss Pickles." Linda cared for him with such grace and love during his battle with Alzheimer's these last few years. His family grew even more as he welcomed Linda's family as his own: Jennifer Ashby, Ginger (David) Temples, Rodney (Tammy) Jones Jr., Gene (Amy) Sharp, Lynell Lambert, Nancy (Paul) Sattler, and Kay Lemons, along with multiple grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dink was promoted, yet again, to "Papaw Dink," or great-grandfather, to Isabella (7), Raelynn (4), Cayson (2), Henry (5), and Leo (2). He played along with just about all of the silly games they forced upon him. A retired veteran with 23 years of military service, Dink served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force as a Radar Control Specialist and with the Tennessee Army National Guard Field Artillery, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He was a veteran of Desert Storm and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious achievement while serving in the Headquarters Battery, 196th Field Artillery Brigade, in support of Operation Desert Storm. His other military honors included the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Medal, and numerous other medals.

He graduated cum laude from Chattanooga State Technical Community College and also completed the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, First Sergeant Academy, Battle Staff School, and several other career-relevant programs. He retired from the Coca-Cola Company after 41 years of service. Most importantly, Dink was a man of faith who loved the Lord. He was an active member of Shiloh Baptist Church for 46 years, a former deacon, and a

member of the New Hope and Words of Wisdom Sunday School classes. His faith showed up in many ways, including as the Easter egg hider for the preschool church, ladies softball coach and as a faithful security guard for the Shiloh Women of Grace senior ladies. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, his love of Westerns, and his thermoses of black coffee. He leaves behind a legacy of faith, family, love, and so many happy memories.

"Take care of your family — love them — spend time with them. It matters!" —
Dink Fowlkes, 2023

The family will receive friends on Monday from 1:00 pm until 8:00 pm and Tuesday from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 12 noon – Tuesday – March 24, 2026 in the Fort Oglethorpe Chapel of Wilson Funeral Homes with Pastors: Derrell O'Neal and David Brown officiating. Burial will follow at Chattanooga National Cemetery. Arrangements by W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Homes – Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Online register book at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Chattanooga National Cemetery

1200 Bailey Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404
(423) 855-6590

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 23. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel
555 West Cloud Springs Road
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
(706) 866-5555
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

MAR 24. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel
555 West Cloud Springs Road
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
(706) 866-5555
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR **24**. 12:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel
555 West Cloud Springs Road
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
(706) 866-5555
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Graveside Service

MAR **24**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404
(423) 855-6590

Tribute Wall

MW

“ He was my great-grandfather and one of the funniest men I ever knew. I truly will miss him.

Maelynn Walker - March 24 at 01:24 PM

RM

“ Robert and Gloria McDade purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Jennings Dink Fowlkes.



Robert and Gloria McDade - March 23 at 01:53 PM

PS

“ Pennington (Brother and Sister's purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. Jennings Dink Fowlkes.



Pennington (Brother and Sister's - March 23 at 10:47 AM

PS

“ Pennington (Brother and Sister's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Jennings Dink Fowlkes.

Pennington (Brother and Sister's - March 23 at 10:47 AM

TS

“ Terry & Michelle Stansberry purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Jennings Dink Fowlkes.



Terry & Michelle Stansberry - March 21 at 06:09 PM

LW

“ A good man and a longtime friend at Coca-Cola he will be missed

Leonard Wynne - March 21 at 10:11 AM

JS

“ I have many fond memories of Sibj. From little league football I, where Shelia and Angie were Cheerleaders. He supported Rossciike High School football by heling get cokecto all the playery at halftime and after the home games. He never failed to speak to me when he saw me. He would always brag on his children. He would tell me how Gene was doing in what ever sport he partipated in. Then he was always present to support the grandkids. I started school with Shelia as a classmate that went till High School graduation. Dink's wife was a substitute teacher for several years and Dink was there supporting both Sheliaand his wife.

Jerry Stephens - March 21 at 12:53 AM

LL

“ My memory of this precious man was he was my ball coach (The GOAT) and then in 2009 he married my Mom and he was Dad from then on.. I love you Dad and I'll miss you 💔

Lynell Lambert - March 20 at 07:00 PM